

March 14, 1975

advantage of the drivers training program. No one discourages the quality of the program. No one disagrees with the intent of it. But when you mandate it across the state and say that anyone who does not take that examination after the date of January 1, 1976 shall need to be 17 years of age in order to obtain a drivers license, or after January 1, 1977 must be 18 years of age to obtain a drivers license, we are adding insult to injury. It has been pointed out here that in many areas students are allowed to drive under a learners permit at the age of 14. I didn't know if they could operate under a learners permit after attaining the age of 16 under this bill. I would suggest that it is a double handicap for those individuals who for one reason or another are unable to take advantage of the program. We have enough problems in education today without getting into this area. It is an attempt again, and Senator Barnett has pointed out that the children are clammering for it. I have ten of them and I don't hear children clammering for it. I think that most of those kids are going to learn to drive. We need to teach the safety aspects, the good driving principles that are taught in the drivers training program, that is true. I support it. But we have had a number of unnecessary bills in this Legislature and with all due respect to my close friend Senator Barnett we do not need this bill and I respectfully request that you support Senator DeCamp's motion to indefinitely postpone it and we get on with the other business.

PRESIDENT: Senator Maresh.

SENATOR MARESH: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, a question of Senator Barnett.

PRESIDENT: Senator Barnett could you respond to a question from Senator Maresh.

SENATOR BARNETT: I will sure try too.

SENATOR MARESH: Senator Barnett the youngsters are allowed to quit school at 16. What would happen to one of these if they decided to quit school and were trying to find a job, would they have to go back to school to get this training?

SENATOR BARNETT: Well there are several ways, well they could still attend the drivers training class through a special permit or they could go to a private person that is in the teaching business of the drivers education program which we have right here in the state now.

SENATOR MARESH: Do you find those out-state in the rural areas?

SENATOR BARNETT: I am sure that you do.

SENATOR MARESH: I haven't heard of those.

SENATOR BARNETT: Well maybe not in Wilber, I don't know about that, I can't say. Milligan, I can't say about that one either.

PRESIDENT: Senator Goodrich.